

Reference

Trophies

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Introduction

The *Trophies* section covers ruminant and swine trophies that include hides and skins; and bones and other bony tissue (including antlers, horns, hoofs, skulls, tusks, and teeth); and bird trophies of the entire carcass, the eviscerated carcass, or **only** the skin and feathers with head and feet attached.

Trophies are usually obtained during hunting expeditions, and are imported as either taxidermy finished or **not** taxidermy finished (unfinished). A taxidermy-finished trophy has been professionally prepared, stuffed, and mounted ready for exhibition; such completely finished trophies are allowed **unrestricted** entry. Look for evidence of

professional mounting and proper treatment. If unable to determine that the trophy has been taxidermy finished, then regulate the trophy as **not** taxidermy finished.



If swine hides from regions affected with ASF are fully mounted and ready for display or exhibition **only**, then the hides are allowed **unrestricted** entry.

Regulate the following as trophies:

- ◆ One to two skulls or horns
- ◆ Skulls or horns that have been lacquered or painted (finished)
- ◆ Cattle skulls that are clean and dry and free from undried pieces of hide, flesh, and sinew, that are imported for display



Bones and antlers are regulated from all countries because of anthrax.

What Is Not Covered

This section **does not** cover the following:

- ◆ Antlers or bones entering as commercial importations
 - ❖ Consider a large quantity of unfinished antlers or bones as a commercial importation, and regulate as bones rather than trophies
 - ❖ Go to the *Reference* section ***Bones and Related By-Products***

Keep in mind that the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior (FWS) may also regulate the trophies under wildlife laws: The Endangered Species Act (ESA), and The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

Procedures



Be sure to check for ticks on trophies. If ticks are found on trophies from Mexico, see [Hides or Skins of Ruminants from Mexico that Are Not Taxidermy Finished](#) on page 3-17-10.

Determining if the Trophies Were Treated



Before inspecting trophies, try to learn whether the shipment was treated. Use the steps that follow to guide your inspection and protect your health.

To determine if trophies have been treated, do as follows:

1. Check container markings, labels, and accompanying documents to learn if the container or its contents were treated.
 - A. If the accompanying documents indicate that the trophies were treated, then skip to 3., below.
 - B. If the documents tell you nothing, then go to 2., below.
2. If you **did not** learn anything from the labels or accompanying documents, then carefully examine the container and its contents for pesticide residue.
 - A. If you detect a chemical odor, suspect that the trophies were treated.
 - B. If you suspect pesticide use, then recheck the documentation and labeling to determine the exact pesticide used. If pesticide poisoning occurs, then knowing the name of the pesticide will help with being able to take the most appropriate action.
 - C. If you are unable to identify the suspect pesticide, then hold the material and **refuse** to inspect until the importer or the importer's agent provides you with this information.
3. Before examining treated shipments, have the importer or the importer's representative open and aerate the containers.
4. Once opened, **do not** breathe the air around the open container. Work in a well-ventilated area.
5. Have the importer or the importer's representative remove the contents from the shipping container for inspection. If there is pesticide residue, then have the importer or importer's representative vacuum the contents and container.

6. If touching any of the material is necessary, then put on latex gloves. To increase your protection, handle the material as little as possible.
7. Once you complete your inspection, appropriately discard the latex gloves. Wash your hands with soap and water.
8. If the shipment showed evidence of having been treated or the importer volunteers this information, but the document and the container were **not** so marked, then mark the documents and the container to alert other people who may have to handle the shipment.

Handling Nonhuman Primate Trophies



Follow these guidelines when handling and inspecting shipments of restricted animal trophies containing nonhuman primate parts or specimens, as declared in the manifest. **Never** allow shipments of wholly nonhuman primate material to go forward to an approved establishment for processing. On such shipments, **immediately** have Customs and Border Protection notify the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at 404/639-3441.

Follow these guidelines for handling nonhuman primate trophies:

1. Have the broker or the owner's or consignee's representative open and remove the contents from the shipping containers for your inspection.



Under **no** circumstances are PPQ officers to open this type of cargo at the port on their own.

- A. If there is evidence that the shipment contains a mix of trophies (both nonhuman primate and non-primate), then **do not** open the shipping containers and **do not** present to PPQ for inspection.
 - B. Complete VS Form 16-78 and indicate that the shipment has **not** been opened for inspection. The entire shipment **must** be sent by common carrier to a USDA approved establishment accompanied by VS Form 16-78.
2. Advise U.S. Customs and Border Protection to inform the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), at 404/639-3441, that a shipment has arrived containing nonhuman primate materials.
 3. Before inspection, put on disposable plastic gloves and a dust mask to prevent exposure to potentially harmful substances and agents.
 4. As you inspect, be careful **not** to tear or puncture the gloves.
 5. Upon completion of your inspection, put the mask and gloves in a double plastic bag.
 6. Incinerate or autoclave the double plastic bag with the gloves and mask inside.
 7. Wash your hands thoroughly with a disinfectant soap.




VS permits are **never** issued to authorize the entry of non-human primate trophies.

Locator

To find the regulatory action to take on trophies, see [Table 3-17-1](#)

TABLE 3-17-1 Where to Find Regulatory Action on Trophies

If the importation is:	And the trophies are:	Then:
Taxidermy finished and ready for exhibit (see Introduction on page 3-17-1)		RELEASE
Not taxidermy finished	◆ Bones	GO to Table 3-17-8
	◆ Capes with or without feathers	GO to Table 3-17-3
	◆ Entire carcasses (whether eviscerated or not)	GO to Table 3-17-8
	◆ Feathers only	GO to Table 3-17-2
	◆ Hides	GO to Table 3-17-4
	◆ Horns, hoofs, skulls, teeth, and tusks	GO to Table 3-17-8
	◆ Skins with or without feathers	GO to Table 3-17-3
	◆ Any other bony tissue with or without flesh, hide, or sinew attached	GO to Table 3-17-8

Feathers Only that Are Not Taxidermy Finished

To determine the action to take on importations of feathers **only** (without hide, skin, or sinew), that are **not** taxidermy finished, see [Table 3-17-2](#).

TABLE 3-17-2 Feathers Only that Are Not Taxidermy Finished

If the importation is:	And the country or region of origin is known to be:	And the feathers are:	And the importation:	Then:
Feathers only (without hide, skin, or sinew) that are not taxidermy finished	Affected with HPAI (H5N1) only	—————→	Is accompanied by a VS permit	RELEASE
		—————→	Lacks a VS permit	REFUSE ENTRY
	Affected with HPAI (H5N1) in combination with END	—————→	Is accompanied by a VS permit	RELEASE
		—————→	Lacks a VS permit	REFUSE ENTRY
	Affected with END only	Dry and clean; and free from blood, skin, and manure	—————→	RELEASE
			Is consigned to an approved establishment	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete the form)
		Contaminated with blood, skin, or manure	Is not consigned to an approved establishment	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
	Free from both HPAI (H5N1) and END	—————→	—————→	RELEASE

Capes With or Without Feathers and Skin of Poultry, Game Birds, and Other Birds that Are Not Taxidermy Finished

To determine that action to take on capes with or without feathers and skin of game birds (ostrich skin) and poultry that are **not** taxidermy finished, see [Table 3-17-3](#).

TABLE 3-17-3 Capes With or Without Feathers and Skins of Poultry, and Game Birds, and Other Birds that Are Not Taxidermy Finished





















If the importation is:	And the country of origin is:	And the article is:	And arriving from:	And is:	Then:
Capes with or without feathers and skins of poultry, game birds ¹ , and other birds, that are not taxidermy finished	Affected with HPAI (H5N1) only	_____→	_____→	Is accompanied by a VS permit	RELEASE
		_____→	_____→	Lacks a VS permit	REFUSE ENTRY
	Affected with HPAI (H5N1) in combination with END	_____→	_____→	Is accompanied by a VS permit	RELEASE
		_____→	_____→	Lacks a VS permit	REFUSE ENTRY
	Affected with END only	Unfinished (not put through a tanning process)	Mexico at a land border port	_____→	GO to Table 3-17-9
			◆ Other than Mexico ◆ If Mexico, not at a land border port	Consigned to an approved establishment	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS Form 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form)
				Not consigned to an approved establishment	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
	Free from both HPAI (H5N1) and END	Finished (tanned)	_____→	_____→	RELEASE
		_____→	_____→	_____→	RELEASE

¹ For example, ostrich skin.

Hides that Are Not Taxidermy Finished

To determine the action to take on importations of hides that are **not** taxidermy finished, see [Table 3-17-4](#).

TABLE 3-17-4 Hides that Are Not Taxidermy Finished

If the animal source is:	And the country of origin is known to be:	And:	And the importation:	Then:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Poultry ◆ Game birds ◆ Other birds 	Affected with HPAI (H5N1) only		Is accompanied by a VS permit	RELEASE
			Lacks a VS permit	REFUSE ENTRY
	Affected with HPAI (H5N1) in combination with END		Is accompanied by a VS permit	RELEASE
			Lacks a VS permit	REFUSE ENTRY
	Affected with END only			GO to Table 3-17-3
	Free from both HPAI (H5N1) and END			RELEASE
Ruminants	Affected with FMD only			REGULATE under Hides and Related By-Products
	Free from FMD	Country of origin is Mexico		GO to Table 3-17-5
		Country of origin is other than Mexico		GO to Table 3-17-7
Swine	Affected with ASF only			GO to Table 3-17-13
	Affected with FMD only			REGULATE under Hides and Related By-Products
	Affected with FMD in combination with ASF			REGULATE under Hides and Related By-Products
	Free from both FMD and ASF			RELEASE

Hides or Skins of Ruminants from Mexico that Are Not Taxidermy Finished

Tanned hides of ruminants from Mexico are allowed **unrestricted** entry.

To determine the action to take on fresh (green) animal hides from any species and hides and racks from Mexico, see [Table 3-17-5](#),

TABLE 3-17-5 Fresh Hides or Skins of Ruminants from Mexico that Are Not Taxidermy Finished

If the importation is:	And the country of origin is:	And upon inspection the hides are:	And the importation:	Then:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fresh (green) ruminant hides ◆ Fresh hides with racks 	Mexico	Free of ticks and have been treated with an acaricide	Is accompanied by a veterinary certificate ¹	INSPECT and RELEASE
			Lacks the required certificate ¹	1. CONSIGN the hide or skin to an approved establishment 2. AUTHORIZE movement by the importer with VS Form 16-78; and RECORD the importer's driver's license number and vehicle's tag number in <i>Block 17</i> (see Appendix K to complete the form)
		Free of ticks and have been dipped at a Mexican cattle export facility and packed in heavy plastic bags	Is accompanied by a veterinary certificate ¹	INSPECT and RELEASE
			Lacks the required certificate ¹	1. CONSIGN the hide or skin to an approved establishment 2. AUTHORIZE movement by the importer with VS Form 16-78 and RECORD the importer's driver's license number and vehicle's tag number in <i>Block 17</i> (see Appendix K to complete the form);
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fresh (green) ruminant hides ◆ Fresh hides with racks 	Mexico	Frozen to a non-pliable (rock-hard) state	Is accompanied by a written statement signed by the owner, and certifying that the hides have been frozen for at least 24 hours	RELEASE
		Infested with ticks	→	GO to Table 3-17-6
Deer skins or other hides that are still on the carcass	→	→	→	REFUSE ENTRY

¹ A certificate signed by a veterinary official of the Mexican Government that states the hides and racks have been treated with an acaricide, and have been found to be free of ticks.

Options for Importers of Fresh Hides or Skins of Ruminants from Mexico

Importers of fresh hides or skins of ruminants from Mexico that are **not** taxidermy finished, but are infested with ticks or lack official certification, may take other options for infested or uncertified hides. Continue to [Table 3-17-6](#).

TABLE 3-17-6 Options for Importers of Fresh Hides or Skins of Ruminants from Mexico that Are Not Taxidermy Finished, but Are Infested With Ticks or Lack Official Certification

If the importation is:	And the hides and skins:	And the country of origin is:	And the importer chooses to:	Then:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hides ◆ Skins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Are infested with ticks ◆ Lack official certification¹ 	Mexico	Return the hide or skin to Mexico ²	ENSURE that the hide or skin is returned to Mexico
			Consign the hide or skin to an approved establishment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ENSURE that the importer packages the hide or skin in a 4- to 5-mil plastic bag and tightly seals the bag to prevent ticks from escaping 2. If horns are present, then either TAPE the horns or WRAP an additional 5-mil plastic bag around the horns so that they cannot poke a hole in the bag 3. AUTHORIZE movement by the importer with VS Form 16-78; and RECORD the importer's driver's license number and vehicle's tag number in <i>Block 17</i> (see Appendix K to complete the form)
			Have the hide or skin incinerated under PPQ supervision	SUPERVISE the incineration

- 1 A certificate signed by a veterinary official of the Mexican Government that states the hides and racks have been treated with an acaricide, and have been found to be free of ticks.
- 2 Returned articles will **not** be eligible for re-entry into the United States until 7 days after the articles have been treated with acaricide, and then found to be free of ticks upon reinspection.

Fresh Hides or Skins of Ruminants from Other than Mexico, that Are Not Taxidermy Finished, and Are from a Country Known to Be Free of FMD

To determine the action to take on hides or skins of ruminants that are **not** taxidermy finished, but are from a country known to be free of FMD and from **other than** Mexico, see [Table 3-17-7](#).

TABLE 3-17-7 Fresh Hides or Skins of Ruminants from Other than Mexico That Are Not Taxidermy Finished, but from a Country Known to Be Free of FMD

If the importation is:	And the country or region of origin is known to be:	And the country of origin is:	And the hide or skin is:	Then:
Hides or skins of ruminants	Free from FMD	Other than Mexico	Hard dried, stiff and not easily bent or flexed and the underside is dry and dark	RELEASE
			Not hard dried, but soft and easily bent or flexed with the underside being moist, light, and having a gelatinous texture	GO to Hides and Related By-Products on page 3-7-1

Bones and Other Bony Tissue

To determine the action to take for bones and bony tissue, with or **without** hide, flesh, or sinew attached (including antlers, hoofs, horns, teeth, and tusks, and carcasses), that are **not** taxidermy finished, see [Table 3-17-8](#).

TABLE 3-17-8 Bones and Other Bony Tissue, Including Antlers, Hoofs, Horns, Teeth, and Tusks



If the animal origin is:	And is from a country or region of origin:	And the importation is:	And:	Then:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Poultry ◆ Game birds ◆ Other birds 	Affected with HPAI (H5N1) only	Clean and dry and free from undried pieces of hide, flesh, and sinew	Is accompanied by a VS permit	RELEASE
			Lacks a VS permit	REFUSE ENTRY
		Not clean and dry as specified above	—————→	REFUSE ENTRY
	Affected with HPAI (H5N1) in combination with END	Clean and dry and free from undried pieces of hide, flesh, and sinew	Is accompanied by a VS permit	RELEASE
			Lacks a VS permit	REFUSE ENTRY
		Not clean and dry as specified above	—————→	REFUSE ENTRY
	Affected with END only	—————→	—————→	GO to Table 3-17-9
	Free from both HPAI (H5N1) and END	—————→	—————→	RELEASE
Equine (horses)	—————→	—————→	—————→	RELEASE
Ruminant	—————→	—————→	—————→	GO to Table 3-17-10
Swine	Affected with ASF only	—————→	—————→	GO to Table 3-17-13
	Affected with ASF in combination with FMD	—————→	—————→	GO to Table 3-17-13
	Affected with FMD only	—————→	—————→	GO to Table 3-17-12
	Free from both ASF and FMD	—————→	—————→	RELEASE
Other than an animal class listed above ¹	—————→	—————→	—————→	RELEASE

¹ Any other animal that **does not** fit into the classes listed, such as elephants, tigers, and rhinoceroses.

Carcasses, or Bony Tissue With or Without Skin, Flesh, or Sinew of Poultry and Game Birds, and Not Taxidermy Finished, and from a Country Known to Be Affected with END Only

To determine the action to take on entire poultry and game bird carcasses or bony tissue with or **without** skin, flesh, or sinew of poultry that are **not** taxidermy finished and from a country of origin known to be affected with END, see [Table 3-17-9](#).

TABLE 3-17-9 Poultry, Game Bird, or Other Bird Carcasses or Bony Tissue With or Without Skin, Flesh, or Sinew, and Not Taxidermy Finished, and from a Country Known to Be Affected with END Only

If the trophy is:	And the country of origin is:	And is:	And the port of entry is:	And:	Then:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Poultry ◆ Game bird ◆ Other bird 	Affected with END only	Mexico	Land border port	Importer chooses to take the birds to an approved establishment (which may be in another State) using his or her private vehicle	1. COMPLETE VS Form 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form) 2. RECORD the driver's license number of the importer and the vehicle license number on VS Form 16-78 3. ALLOW the importer to take the birds to the approved establishment
				Importer chooses to send the birds by common carrier to an approved establishment	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS Form 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form)
				Importer chooses to not have the birds processed in an approved establishment	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
			Other than a land border port	Consigned to an approved establishment	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form)
				Not consigned to an approved establishment	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
		Other than Mexico		Consigned to an approved establishment	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form)
				Not consigned to an approved establishment	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

Ruminant Bones and Other Bony Tissue Including Antlers, Hoofs, Horns, Teeth, and Tusks

TABLE 3-17-10 Ruminant Bones and Other Bony Tissue Including Antlers, Hoofs, Horns, Teeth, and Tusks

If the importation is:	And the ruminant source is:	And the bones are:	And the country or region of origin is:	And the importation is:	Then:
♦ Ruminant bones ♦ Other bony tissue, including hoofs, horns, teeth, and tusks	Not cervid	Fully-finished ¹ as trophies or consigned to a museum	—————→	—————→	RELEASE
		Not fully-finished ¹ as trophies or consigned to a museum	Affected with BSE ²	—————→	REFUSE ENTRY
			Free from BSE ²	Consigned to an approved establishment ³	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS Form 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete the form)
				Not consigned to an approved establishment ³	REFUSE ENTRY
	Cervid (caribou, deer, elk, moose, reindeer)	Fully-finished ¹ as trophies or consigned to a museum	—————→	—————→	RELEASE
		Not fully-finished ¹ as trophies or consigned to a museum	Affected with BSE ²	—————→	REFUSE ENTRY
			Minimal risk for BSE ⁴	Consigned to an approved establishment ³	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS Form 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete the form)
				Not consigned to an approved establishment ³	REFUSE ENTRY
			Free from BSE	Consigned to an approved establishment ³	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS Form 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete the form)
				Not consigned to an approved establishment ³	REFUSE ENTRY
Antlers	Cervid	—————→	—————→	—————→	GO to Table 3-17-11

- 1 A fully-finished trophy is defined as taxidermy-finished (professionally prepared and properly finished), stuffed, mounted, or ready for display. If you **cannot** make a decision through visual inspection, then you have the authority to request proof of taxidermy service.
- 2 There are **no** approved establishments for products (such as bones and trophies) that are **prohibited** from BSE-affected countries or from countries categorized as being at minimal risk for BSE.
- 3 The approved establishments will treat materials for other diseases, including anthrax.
- 4 Currently Canada is the **only** country designated at minimal risk for BSE.

Ruminant Cervid Antlers

TABLE 3-17-11 Ruminant Cervid Antlers

If:	And the ruminant source is:	And:	And the antlers are:	And the country or region of origin is:	And the importation is:	Then:
Antlers	Cervid (caribou, deer, elk, moose, reindeer)	More than two sets in personal shipments ¹	Fully-finished ² as trophies or consigned to a museum	—————→	—————→	RELEASE
			Not fully-finished ² as trophies or consigned to a museum	Affected with BSE ³	—————→	REFUSE ENTRY
				Minimal risk for BSE ⁴	Consigned to an approved establishment ⁵	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS Form 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete the form)
					Not consigned to an approved establishment	REFUSE ENTRY
				Free from BSE	Consigned to an approved establishment ⁵	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS Form 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete the form)
					Not consigned to an approved establishment	REFUSE ENTRY
		One or two sets in personal shipments ¹	—————→	Canada	—————→	GO to Table A-1-11
				Other than Canada	Clean and dry and free from undried pieces of hide, flesh, and sinew	RELEASE
					Not clean and dry and free from undried pieces of hide, flesh, and sinew	REFUSE ENTRY

- 1 Regulate commercial shipments of antlers using [Bones and Related By-Products](#) on page 3-4-1.
- 2 A fully-finished trophy is defined as taxidermy-finished (professionally prepared and properly finished), stuffed, mounted, or ready for display. If you **cannot** make a decision through visual inspection, then you have the authority to request proof of taxidermy service.
- 3 There are **no** approved establishments for products (such as bones and trophies) that are **prohibited** from BSE-affected countries or from countries categorized as being at minimal risk for BSE.
- 4 Currently Canada is the **only** country designated at minimal risk for BSE.
- 5 The approved establishments will treat for other diseases, including anthrax.

Bones and Bony Tissue of Swine that Are Not Taxidermy Finished, and from a Country Known to Be Affected FMD

To determine the action to take on bones of swine that are **not** taxidermy finished, and are from a country or region known to be affected with FMD, see [Table 3-17-12](#).

TABLE 3-17-12 Bones and Bony Tissue of Swine that Are Not Taxidermy Finished, and Are from a Country Known to Be Affected with FMD

If the importation is:	And the country or region of origin is known to be:	And the bones are:	And the importation is:	Then:
Bones and bony tissue of swine that are not taxidermy finished	Affected with FMD only	Clean, dry, and free from undried pieces of cape, flesh, and sinew	→	RELEASE
		Not clean, dry, and free from undried pieces of cape, flesh, or sinew	Consigned to an approved establishment	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form)
			Not consigned to an approved establishment	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

Unfinished Swine Trophies (Including Bones and Hides) from a Country Affected with ASF or ASF in Combination with FMD

TABLE 3-17-13 Unfinished Swine Trophies Including Bones and Hides from a Country Affected with ASF or ASF in Combination with FMD

If the importation is:	And the country or region of origin is known to be:	And the importation is:	Then:
Unfinished swine trophies, including bones and hides	Affected with ASF only	Consigned to an approved establishment	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form)
		Not consigned to an approved establishment	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
	Affected with ASF in combination with FMD	Consigned to an approved establishment	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form)
		Not consigned to an approved establishment	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

